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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/553,530	04/20/2000	Hiroshi Maeda	450100-02476	5119

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NEW YORK, NY 10151

EXAMINER

BECKER, SHAWN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/553,530

Applicant(s)

MAEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Shawn M. Becker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 3 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3 and 10 cite "said circles or said arcs", in a plural form, whereas "circle" and "arc" are only used in the singular previously; therefore, claims 3 and 10 are indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,212,643 to Yoshida and European Patent No. 0 378 271 to De Jong et al.

Referring to claims 1, 2, and 9, Yoshida teaches a method and electronic map apparatus (vehicle-mounted navigation apparatus). The apparatus has a data fetching means for fetching map data from media for storing the map data to be displayed as a map. See col. 3, lines 22-30, which describes how the display control unit reads (fetches) the map data. The display control unit (microcomputer) processes the map data and scale indication patterns, which are data of a circle which has a center at a specified point (location of the vehicle) on the map and links points on the map at equal geographical distances from the center. The circles are displayed on the map

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with the data processed by the microcomputer. See Fig. 3 and col. 4, lines 12-28. Yoshida does not explicitly teach displaying the map in a perspective view as cited in the claims. De Jong teaches a method geared toward vehicle navigation that displays part of a map in a perspective view. See col. 1, lines 40-46. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with the teachings of Yoshida and De Jong before him to modify the vehicle-mounted navigation apparatus of Yoshida to display the map in a perspective view, because as De Jong teaches, provides the user with more information about the terrain or area in which he moves or is interested in.

Referring to claims 3 and 10, Yoshida teaches that the display control unit (microcomputer) processes data of a plurality of circles representing different geographical distances from the center and the circles are superimposed on the map displayed. See Fig. 3, which shows circles representing distances of 1, 2, and 3 km. Also, see col. 4, lines 12-28. The perspective view is taught by De Jong, as described above.

Referring to claims 4 and 11, Yoshida shows that the display control unit (microcomputer) outputs number (1, 2, 3) indicating a geographical distance from the center to the circle and displays each of the numbers in close proximity to the circumference of the circle with the geographical distance thereof indicated by the number. See Fig. 3.

Referring to claims 5 and 12, Yoshida teaches that the display control unit (microcomputer) changes contraction of a map displayed on the display device and modifies the geographical distances from the center to the circles and the number of circles in accordance with a degree of contraction of the map. See the Reduce (20) and Magnify (21) buttons in Fig. 3

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and col. 4, lines 4-12, which describe how the reduction of scale is handled. The perspective view is taught by De Jong, as described above.

Referring to claims 6 and 13, the electronic map apparatus of Yoshida is a navigation apparatus mounted on a vehicle (Vehicle-Mounted Navigation Apparatus), and the specified point is the position of the vehicle. The map data includes the position of the vehicle, which is read from the media. See col. 1, lines 53-62 and col. 3, lines 39-51. The perspective view is taught by De Jong, as described above.

Referring to claims 7 and 14, Yoshida shows that the specified point is the current location of the vehicle, but does not explicitly show the specified point is a point on a map specified by a user as cited in the claims. However, De Jong teaches that a driver (user) can select a position by hand on the map. See col. 4, lines 45-46. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with the teachings of Yoshida and De Jong before him to modify the vehicle-mounted navigation apparatus of Yoshida to allow the user to select the specified point, because as De Jong teaches in col. 3, lines 24-50, the user may wish to see his surroundings further down a route or look at route segments that have not been traveled.

Referring to claims 8 and 15, Yoshida teaches displaying a symbol representing a direction (the direction of the vehicle) at the specified point (vehicle location). See Yoshida at col. 3, lines 55-59. De Jong teaches the perspective view as described above.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach

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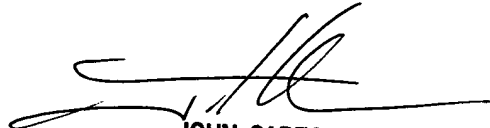
methods for bird's eye perspective views of maps to magnify the area closest to the user and maps with arcs and circles to show equidistant points. Specifically, Applicant's attention is directed to cited U.S. Patent Nos. 6,282,490 and 5,908,464.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn M. Becker whose telephone number is 703-305-7756. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeca can be reached on 703-305-3116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-745-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

smb
October 17, 2002


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100